

YALI Entrepreneurship

INVESTMENT SUMMARY



U.S. African Development Foundation
 Michele Rivard, YALI Director
 Email: mrivard@usadf.gov
 Tel: +1-202-673-3916

Overview: USADF is catalyzing social and business entrepreneurs by providing seed capital to young people to launch and expand their ventures. The YALI Entrepreneurship Grants program, a **\$7.5 million, 3 year initial commitment**, targets the Young Africa Leadership Initiative's Mandela Washington Fellows and Network participants, awarding from \$10K to \$25 grants through business plan competitions and offering mentoring and technical assistance.



Type	Grantee	Country	Year	Value	Summary
Creating a Greener Future	Gregory Feris <i>Lark Journeys</i>	Namibia	2014	\$24,000	Ecotourism: Despite being a middle income country, Namibia's has a highly skewed income distribution. The benefits of tourism remain in the hands of a few, while the local areas where many outdoor tourist sites are found gain relatively little. But, further development of the outdoor travel sector could benefit even remote communities, due to the potential from productively and sustainably using natural resources. Ecotourism venture Lark Journeys is promoting environmental conservation and providing economic incentives to local communities, while sharing Namibia's beautiful, diverse geography and culture with the world.
	Liginiku Millinga <i>LI&G Tanzania Ltd. Company</i>	Tanzania	2014	\$25,000	WASH (Water): Townspeople and villagers often lack easy access to potable water. Addressing this challenge still facing his home town, Liginiku Millinga launched LI&G Ltd. He is drilling boreholes, charging reasonable rates for safe, clean water, and working to offer consistent access to quality water for underserved and rural communities. He also is using an affordable purification process and efficient distribution structure. The time and money that women and children expend collecting water from far away can be better channeled to education, family plots of land for crops, and other business activities that can improve livelihoods.
	Hastings Mkandawire <i>Turbines Development Enterprise</i>	Malawi	2014	\$25,000	Renewable Energy (Hydropower): Only 7% of Malawians have reliable power, and so many people burn wood for fuel that the forests are disappearing. Renewable energy can bring electricity to more of the country than is served by the national grid, and is a more affordable, environmentally friendly alternative to diesel generators. Turbines Development Enterprise sees the future where electricity access is not contingent on one's economic status or location. This venture is building turbines and providing rural communities with affordable access to small scale hydroelectric power.
	James Mulbah <i>Green Cities Inc.</i>	Liberia	2014	\$25,000	Manufacturing (Recycling): Green Cities is tackling two of Monrovia's challenges — what to do with accumulating waste and unemployed young people. Liberia's first waste segregation and recycling center is adding economic value to waste management, by turning trash into useful plastic products for the home. This enterprise is creating jobs for young people, who collect and turn in plastic materials and are being training on the manufacturing equipment, and is contributing to a greener future.
	Hope Mwanake <i>Trace Kenya Group</i>	Kenya	2015	\$25,000	Manufacturing (Recycling): High demand for housing, coupled with the growing environmental degradation and health risks caused by landfills, catalyzed Hope Mwanake's venture. By manufacturing durable, quality, affordable, and eco-friendly roofing tiles from recycled plastic and glass waste, Hope is leading Trace Kenya Group to meet market demand, to positively impact the environment, and to create jobs for young people from the collection and production processes.

Type	Grantee	Country	Year	Value	Summary
Creating a Greener Future	Olusegun Odunaiya <i>HavenHill Synergy Ltd.</i>	Nigeria	2014	\$25,000	Renewable Energy (Solar): Nigeria is oil rich but energy poor. More than 81 million people do not have electricity to turn on a light and read a book, cook a meal, or take care of an injury. Believing that geography should not determine access to resources, Olusegun and his company sell solar-powered products to Nigerians living without basic infrastructure. This sales and service provider seeks to become one of the leading renewable energy companies in the region.
	Dziedzorm Segbefia <i>BraveHearts Expeditions</i>	Ghana	2014	\$25,000	Ecotourism: Ghana has been record annual growth rates, but many people face economic hardships now brought about by the weak currency, unemployment, and environmental degradation. Riches abound in culture, wildlife, and geography – all of which can be harnessed sustainably to build the outdoor adventure sports sector. BraveHearts Expeditions is Ghana’s first company for experiential learning expeditions and adventure sports services. It combines eco-tourism with youth training and empowerment.
	Mutuba Ngoma <i>Tapera Industries Ltd.</i>	Zambia	2014	\$25,000	Renewable energy (Biofuel): Sustaining the environment can be in conflict with the growing demand for more fuel, but not at Tapera Industries. This enterprise is providing affordable, sustainable sources of renewable energy by processing vegetable oils CHECK into biodiesel. Mutoba sources from 800 small-scale farmers, and is working closely with them to increase their yields and take home income. Consumers and farmers are benefiting, as are the natural resources around them.
	Nonso Okafor <i>Megayield Associates</i>	Nigeria	2014	\$25,000	Manufacturing (Recycling): Nigeria’s Anambra State is accumulating more waste that it can handle, collecting only 12% of the trash generated and leaving the rest to permeate neighborhoods and streets, causing serious health and physical hazards. Meanwhile, common plastic household products such as clothes hangers, storage containers, and dishes are in demand, yet most are imported, which increases the cost beyond what most people can afford. Nonso’s firm is using recycled materials to produce high quality, more affordable plastic items for household use. He is reducing environmental degradation, responding to market demand, and creating job opportunities through the collection and manufacturing processes.
Catalyzing Women & Girls	Regina Agyare <i>Soronko Foundation</i>	Ghana	2014	\$25,000	Girls’ Education (STEM): Market demand makes ICT one of the fastest-growing, highest-paying sectors, but women make up less than 20% of ICT specialists and fewer than 1% of high school girls plan to pursue a career in computer science. Soronko Foundation is using technology to drive social change and break gender barriers. By teaching girls ages 6-18 how to code, the <i>Tech Needs Girls</i> mentoring program is working to increase the number of young women who study and pursue careers in ICT, to build up a next generation of tech entrepreneurs, and to economically empower disadvantaged girls with a skill to earn money whether or not they continue on for more formal education. Mentoring and job opportunities in the IT sector are part of the program.
	Lucy Athieno <i>Eco-pads</i>	Uganda	2014	\$25,000	Girls’ Education (Health): Many young women drop out of school when they cannot afford sanitary napkins to manage their menses. Eco-pads is empowering girls and young women by providing quality, affordable, reusable and eco-friendly pads, as an innovative solution to the challenges associated with menstrual hygiene such as getting a secondary education. As well, Eco-pads is creating employment and mentoring opportunities to better equip more girls to take economic control of their futures.
	Ndeye Gueye <i>WICHI Assistant</i>	Senegal	2014	\$25,000	Health (ICT): Senegal’s rates of maternal and infant mortality are high, due in large part to the lack of prenatal care and monitoring during pregnancy and delivery, and the shortage of maternal health care professionals. Wichi Assistant (Woman and Child Assistant) will improve outcomes via technology. This mobile cloud platform will connect mothers-to-be with health professionals and give women the tools to monitor their own pregnancies. WICHI also has an embedded mobile ultrasound platform for echography. These innovations will be democratizing care and saving lives.

Type	Grantee	Country	Year	Value	Summary
Catalyzing Women & Girls	Adepeju Jaiyeoba <i>Mother's Delivery Kit Ltd.</i>	Nigeria	2014	\$25,000	Health (Maternal & Infant): Nigeria's outcomes for women and babies at child birth are death and injury laden, especially among rural, underserved communities. This social venture, conceptualized by lawyer Adepeju Jaiyeoba, is tackling this problem, one birth at a time. Midwives and birthing assistants buy Maternal Health Kits — safe, hygienic, and affordable home delivery kits. Their use, coupled with training & education for health care workers, are saving lives. Profits are being rolled back into the business, to expand production & reach more women in need.
	Kolu Kamah <i>Excellent Medical Clinic</i>	Liberia	2014	\$25,000	Health (Primary Care Clinic): Much of Liberia's basic infrastructure was destroyed during the civil war. Kolu, a professional nurse and health care manager, is starting up a clinic in a rural county to provide accessible, quality care to families in need. The clinic will be providing primary health care services, and is particularly focused on the needs of women and children.
	Florence Kamaitha <i>Pad Heaven Initiative</i>	Kenya	2014	\$25,000	Girls' Education (Health): Up to 80% of Kenyan girls starting primary school never complete their education. One reason is a lack of sanitary pads. Many families living on a dollar a day cannot afford to buy these for their daughters, who drop out of school. Florence's goal is that more girls will stay in school, complete their education, and become productive members of society. Pad Heaven is achieving this by manufacturing and selling affordable, disposable, environmentally-friendly sanitary towels from natural materials including banana fronds. The products are coupled with training, awareness, and empowerment talks with families and schools to improve both health and education outcomes.
	Mellisa Mazingi <i>zedlabel</i>	Zimbabwe	2014	25,000	Fashion (Finance/ Online Marketing): Customers cannot easily access Zimbabwean design, and talented fashion entrepreneurs cannot easily access financing to grow their small businesses. Zedlabel's online marketplace is linking locally-designed Zimbabwean clothing and accessory designers to customers around the world. Mellisa also has set up a low-cost loan facility for designers, to help them move from being time-consuming, made-to-order home-based brands to becoming ready-to-wear commercial entities.
	Elizabeth Mokiti <i>Mathemaniacs</i>	South Africa	2014	\$25,000	Girls' Education (STEM): South Africa's mathematics and science education ranks poorly on international assessments. Very few girls and black students pursue careers in STEM fields, despite those being one of the fastest growing sectors on the globe. To reverse this trend, Mathemaniacs is transforming math and science education with fun, interactive teaching methods that are innovative for students, teachers and school administrators alike. Elizabeth is also building an enabling environment for students, with the goal of producing more mathematicians & scientists to solve challenges.
	Kgomotso Tabane <i>Tabane Capital</i>	South Africa	2014	\$25,000	Design (Finance/ Management): The global creative economy is worth billions, but South Africans contribute less than 1% of it. Entrepreneurs lack access to capital and business and marketing skills, so that many who do venture into the largely informal creative industry often do not grow the ventures beyond the startup phase. 3 out of 4 fail in year 1. Kgomotso's Tabane Capital is committed to growing Africa's creative industries, by empowering young entrepreneurs with the business skills & financial resources required to scale their enterprises into sustainable multinational or multi-channel businesses.
Growing Communities	Andrew Amara <i>Town Build</i>	Uganda	2014	\$25,000	Construction (Housing): Uganda's cities and towns have an influx of informal housing and settlements, with people living in sub-par conditions due to the lack of affordable housing and resources to pay for public services. More than 1.5 million people—60% of Kampala's population—live in slums. Without action, homelessness will increase along with poor housing-related diseases, and subsequently, unemployment and other social ills. The social venture Town Build will provide 150 low-income households with affordable quality homes and the needed services infrastructure of water, power, and sanitation. Architect Andrew Amara is engaging local beneficiaries in the planning process, in order to develop locally relevant solutions.

Type	Grantee	Country	Year	Value	Summary
Growing Communities	Saba Bisrat <i>Revo Construction</i>	Ethiopia	2014	25,000	Construction (Job Training): Despite exponential growth in the construction industry, Ethiopia has a significant gap in the skilled labor market, due to the lack of training facilities and informal apprenticeships. Saba is leveraging Revo's know-how and USADF Grant to establish a training center for young people & skilled labor contracting agency to assist finding appropriate employment for trained
	Ruka De'Liman <i>Jamilullah Farm Enterprise</i>	Ghana	2014	\$25,000	Agriculture (Poultry): Ruka is addressing northern Ghana's high underemployment and poverty by creating jobs and building skills among youth and women through Jamilullah Farm's expansion. She is expanding the chicken coops and capacity of the farm, training people on animal and enterprise management, and increasing the quality of products sold at the retail and wholesale level. Her goal is for the farm to become a leading regional producer of high quality eggs & chicken.
	Emmanuel Hamaro <i>EPINAV Agricultural Solutions</i>	Tanzania	2014	\$25,000	Food production (Piggery and Horticulture): This sector holds great economic potential, but is underdeveloped and unattractive to many young people, despite their being unemployed. Some farmers lack practical and technical expertise and do not use new technologies. Lower than optimal productivity, incomes, and nutrition results in increasing food insecurity. Epinav Agricultural Solutions is transforming the small-scale piggery and horticulture sectors into economic hubs for growth by training and equipping young people with the skills they need to be successful, by employing innovative technologies to produce higher yields, ultimately making agriculture more appealing.
	Amine Ilboudo <i>Ice Berg</i>	Burkina Faso	2014	\$25,000	Manufacturing (Cold Storage): West Africa is home to some of the world's sunniest, warmest, and driest regions. The harsh climate and rising urbanization has led to a growing demand for ice that exceeds the supply capacity of low-production ordinary freezers, and of more expensive, high energy-consuming, non-ecofriendly and "non-tropicalized" imported machines. ICE BERG is working to be the leading African company in ice making machinery research, development and manufacturing. Amine is increasing access to ice blocks and maximizing the returns and productivity of ventures by providing "tropicalized," ecofriendly, durable and low cost ice making machines; these are made partially from recycled materials and produce high quality ice blocks. ICE BERG is using the USADF grant to expand across the country.
	Lombola Lombola <i>Bamboo Express</i>	Malawi	2014	\$25,000	Manufacturing (Natural Resources): Malawi is faced with the challenges of forest degradation and youth unemployment, and the abundance of bamboo trees that grow like weeds. Bamboo Express is tapping into the potential of this resource by designing and building bamboo furniture — and a new bamboo storage and production facility. Lombola is working to be the country's leading bamboo furniture company in the growing global market, and is training young people, providing internships, and creating jobs.
	Eric Muthomi <i>Stawi Foods and Fruits Ltd.</i>	Kenya	2014	\$25,000	Agribusiness: How do we more efficiently raise crops and process food? Stawi Foods and Fruits, an award-winning small and growing business, sources directly from smallholders, processes and packages in Kenya, and sells at home and overseas. Eric's products include gluten-free banana flour, nutritious porridges and other foodstuff. His company is benefiting farmers, mostly women, who are increasing their incomes. Stawi Foods also is providing affordable, nutritious packaged foods for consumers and creating new jobs for young people. Eric was named one of Forbes Magazine's 30 under 30, and his company was selected by the African Leadership Network for their 2015 Ventures program.

Type	Grantee	Country	Year	Value	Summary
Growing Communities	Ulrichia Rabefitiavana <i>R.U.F. Consulting and Associates</i>	Madagascar	2014	\$25,000	CSR (Natural Resources): Madagascar has a high mining and oil potential but a fragile sociopolitical environment coupled with significant gaps in social and environmental regulation that constitute a major barrier to sustainable and inclusive development. As part of a mining firm, Ulrichia Rabefitiavana is seeking to positively change the way businesses engage with communities by launching R.U.F and Associates, Madagascar's first consulting firm specializing in corporate social responsibility. They aim to foster an environment in which businesses embrace responsibility for their actions, promote activities that positively impact the communities, all the while maximizing returns to stakeholders.
	Amina Sidibe <i>Chez La Fermière</i>	Mali	2014	\$25,000	Agriculture (Poultry): Poverty and food security remains a major challenge in Mali; this, coupled with the rapidly growing and urbanizing population underscores the need for a sustainable solution to the growing demand for agricultural products in Mali. In particular, the poultry industry in Mali is severely underdeveloped but Amina Sidibe is working to transform it through the construction of formal infrastructure and the use of novel technologies that will modernize the farming industry and create value addition. Chez La Fermière also seeks to address the growing youth unemployment crisis through agricultural skills development and job creation.
Investing in New Technologies	Michael Haile <i>Nisir Microfinance Institution S.C.</i>	Ethiopia	2014	\$22,550	Finance (SMEs): Despite an abundance of commercial banks and microfinance institutions, Ethiopia has a financing gap for the owners and managers of micro-enterprises who want to scale up their enterprises. Michael is serving this part of the “the missing middle” in the financial pyramid by providing loans and financial services to market sellers and other urban entrepreneurs to grow their businesses. The successful pilot of loans and bundled services will provide Nisir with the platform to raise more capital and reach hundreds of entrepreneurs.
	Nomvula Mhambi <i>Disruptive Innovation Private Ltd.</i>	Zimbabwe	2014	\$24,970	Advertising (WASH): Disruptive Innovation seeks to become a world-class marketing and advertising firm by delivering impactful community development through mixed media. Specifically, Disruptive Innovation is working to improve sanitary conditions—which contributes increased morbidity and mortality as well as reduced productivity and gender inequality—in urban areas through restroom advertising.
	Dizando Mvemba <i>uLAB</i>	Angola	2014	\$25,000	Education (IT): Angola's sole computer science undergraduate curriculum—first established in 2007—while receiving numerous entrants features an extremely low graduation rate. Moreover, due to a host of factors—among which are lack of computer labs and other resources as well as an inadequate environment in which to hone their skills—these students receive little to no practical experience and as a result, end up dropping out of college, holding low-paying jobs, or working out of their field of study. With hands-on training and work experience, uLAB is working to transform computer science students in Angola into skilled, high-earning and outstanding professionals and tech entrepreneurs.
	Diana Nalwoga <i>Tumanini Microfinance Ltd.</i>	Uganda	2014	\$25,000	Finance (Agriculture): Rural Uganda has a lot of subsistence farmers, who have low yields and high post-harvest losses. They lack quality seeds, farm inputs, irrigation systems and storage facilities, and rely on two seasons of rain-fed agriculture. To increase productivity, farmers need access to flexible, optimal funding. Diana is offering farmers low-cost loans with flexible payment schedules, and providing specialized training for farmers to bolster their food security, improve their livelihoods, and grow their businesses.

Type	Grantee	Country	Year	Value	Summary
Investing in New Technologies	Belinda Okumu-Ringa <i>Health Portal Ltd.</i>	Uganda	2014	\$25,000	Health (IT): Preventable diseases are plaguing Africa, with the root causes including the lack of information on preventative health care, the dearth of viable wellness programs, and the challenge of identifying the most appropriate health services, professionals and facilities patients and their families are in need. Health Portal Uganda is an online, print and mobile platform that will empower locals with relevant health data, enabling them to tackle these problems. It also includes a platform for customers to report on and evaluate the services they receive from different providers, which helps both the patient and the service provider. Belinda's platform has social and business arms: one will connect NGOs working in Uganda to people in need of their services, and one will list and report on medical doctors, clinics, and health service providers on a fee-based system.
	Chedi Ngulu <i>MEGAMARKS Ltd.</i>	Tanzania	2014	\$25,000	IT (Youth Engagement and Democracy): Due to a highly rural population accompanied by a communications sector that is tightly regulated, expensive, and has limited reach, lack of access to information is a nationwide problem in Tanzania. Chedi Ngulu aims to educate and inspire the growing youth population to get involved in building a democratic, peaceful, and successful Tanzania by increasing access to information using innovative approaches. One of the major ways he means to achieve this is through the creation of a free mobile application that will deliver critical information to empower voters ahead of 2015 general elections.
	Andry Ravalomanda <i>Telemad</i>	Madagascar	2014	\$22,900	IT (Employment): Telemad seeks to help ensure the success of local entrepreneurs by providing them with the tools, services, and infrastructure to leverage the online marketplace. Specifically, Telemad will be offering an online platform that will equip customers with real time information, analytics and trends they can use to better address the needs of their target markets.
	Mshila Sio <i>Agua Inc.</i>	Kenya	2014	\$24,460	WASH (Water): Kenya's growing population, industrialization and urban migration are reducing water availability per capita and creating an increasing wastewater crisis. Conventional solutions require reliable energy, technical expertise and other inputs -- all of which are scarce and limited in the region. To address these challenges, Agua Kenya is employing low-cost, innovative technologies and local resources to create affordable, effective and sustainable solutions to water purification and wastewater management. These require little technical input, energy, or chemicals, making them universally applicable and sustainable. Mshila is testing new technologies in order to provide clean water to more people in the region.
	Charlie Wandji <i>Itask1job</i>	Cameroon	2014	\$24,588	IT (Freelance Economy): Witnessing first-hand the negative impact of growing unemployment among the educated youth in Cameroon—seeking out illicit sources of income, for instance—Charlie Wandji was motivated to devise a solution. Upon the discovery that one of the barriers to employment was lack of access to information about jobs online, Mr. Wandji created Itask1job, which is an online marketplace that connects young freelancers to businesses demanding skilled workers.

